The Sheikh's Ransomed Bride

Kyoko Sagara

Original Text by Annie West

伝説の宝石が結ぶ真実の愛

異国で誘拐され…

助けられ…

そして…

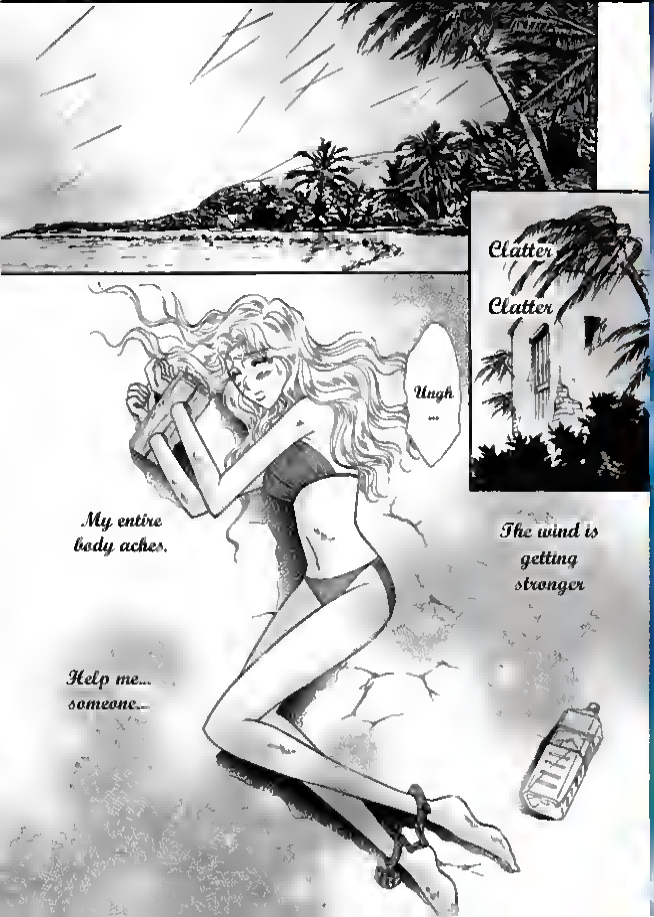
ハーレムから一生私は出られない!?

シークの略奪愛

佐栁きよこ

原作 アニー・ウエスト

Everyone know the meaning of this gem.
In the small nation of Q'roum, In the Arabian sea....
"The Peacockc's Eye's."
It has been passed down to each bride that strikes a king's heart with love.
Even cinse the 16th century...


Clatter
Clatter
Ungh
...
My entire body aches.
The wind is getting stronger
Help me... someone...

Could I be dreaming...?
But this man...
I heard him say, "I'm here to rescue you"
...Look just like a pirate!

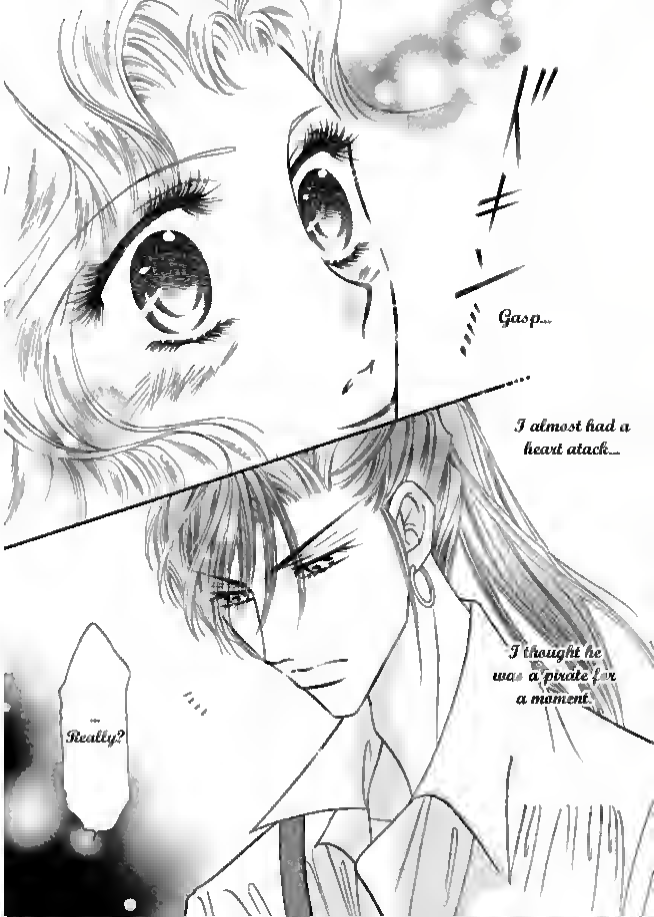
And suddenly, we were kidnapped in the supposedly peaceful country of Q'oum...!
Sheikh Al Akhtar gladly gave us permission to explore these oceans.
How could this happen?
Will we really be rescued?
Ducan and I aren't rich or famous. Just two archaeologists.
All we were doing was exploring a sunken shipwreck.
Exactly! I can't give up hope!
I have to be the one to keep his spirits up!
It's been over 30 hours since I was left on this island.
Who would rescue me now?
Don't be stupid.
Ugh... Belle...?
What am I going to do?
Duncan is in bad shape.
I'm sure that our expedition has search parties looking for us.
You'll be back with your fiancée in no time. Hold on.
Yes ..! Thanks to you shielding me.
The rest of the men left without helpink me.
Duncan! You're awake!
Belle ... Are you all right?

Did one of those men return...?
He'll kill Duncan...
Dash
Gasp
There's someone here...!
Who were those men?
We are going to die on this island?
Flutter
Swoosh

Move... and you're dead!
It's all right.
We've come to rescue you, Ms.Winters
Grab
What...!

Oh... Thank God...
Stump
Okay...
Please... help him.
It's true. Wait over there while we examine your friend.

Are these people military...?
Hide
No... I'm not hurt very badly.
Just a little bruised from being shoved around.
Flicker
Are you hurt, as well?
Your feet are shackled too...?


Gasp...
I almost had a heart attack...
I thought he was a pirate for a moment.
...Really?

You think we would leave you behind? Not to worry.
I will protect you from whatever comes.
Grit
I'm scared but it's the only choice
Saving Duncan's life is more important
I... understand.
I'll just have to wait here until the storms passes.

What...?
Flutter

Fwoosh
Your friend must be taken to a hospital right away, Ms Winters
Yes, thank you
Actually... We have a problem.

It seems like "pirate"...
Whisper
It's the best way to describe him, though.
They're speaking Arabic...

There is a cyclone heaving down.
We can take one of you back to the Qraum mainland, but won't be able to sail back here.
No !
What ...?
We came this island in a small rubber raft.
With an injured man lying down, the 4 of us can't fit.

I used my top to stop Duncan's Bleeding.
This is so embarrassing.
Why do I have to be dressed like this?
Click
Blush
Scrape
I really hate those kidnappers right now!
How could they kidnap me while I was sun-bathing?
Rattle
Click...!
You did it...!
Look after him Daoud.
Don't be stupid!
He's only saying he'll protect me because it's his mission.
Understood. Stay safe, Sir.
Roooar
Please let Duncan be all right.
Let me try to get you shackles off Ms Winters. Have a seat.
Huh?

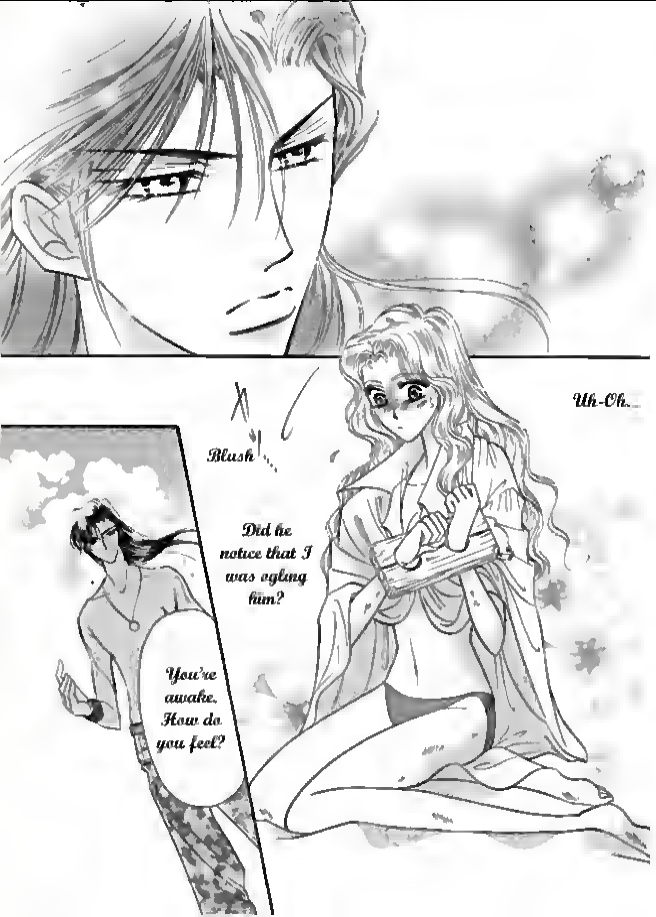
Roooaaar
Pull
What...!
Rattle
Rattle
There's no time to free you hands
This shack won't hold up much longer.
What? Why?
Hurry!
Put your arms around my neck.
Good. Now hold tight.
Don't let go understand?

It's no use the wind is so strong for him to hear me.
Are you all right? Are you hurt?
Thwack!
Ungh...
"I will protect you..."
He's shielding me...!
It's so strange I don't even know his name
But having him here has given me hope.
Yes... I know it
We will be all right.
The wind is so strong!
I can barely breathe
Fwoosh
Crash
Wait...
Leave your arms around me.
Stay close.
What is he...?

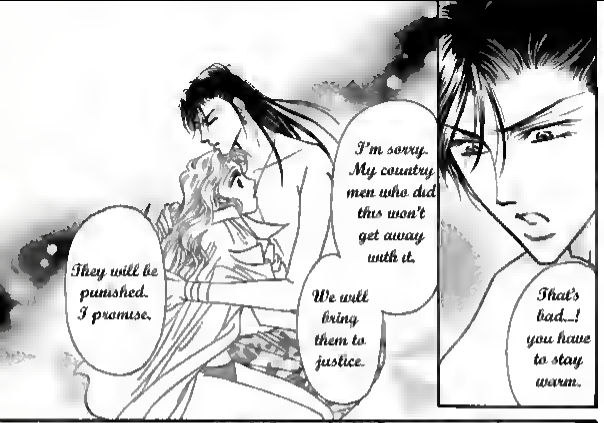
In a storm like this
Daoud won't be able to report the hostages are safe.
Crash
At this very moment... the ransom is being paid.
Even in this situation, she's proudly holding her own.
No princess of any country could compare to her beauty and strengh...
Australian national, 25 years old.
Isabelle Margaret Winters
Her file shows her to be completely engrossed in archaeology.
But looks can be deceiving...
Shake
Ms Winters?
Rattle
She's trying to protect my head from the flying debris?
Smile
She trying to protect me?
And the may she drew Daoud's knife, this one has surprising courage.
This small fragile girl?

Lap
Lap
Roaaaar
If my grandfather were still alive...
He would have called meeting this girl, here on this island, "fate."
The storm...
It's over.
I'm...
Alive...
Lap
Lap
Caw
Caw
Yes... It is our fate...

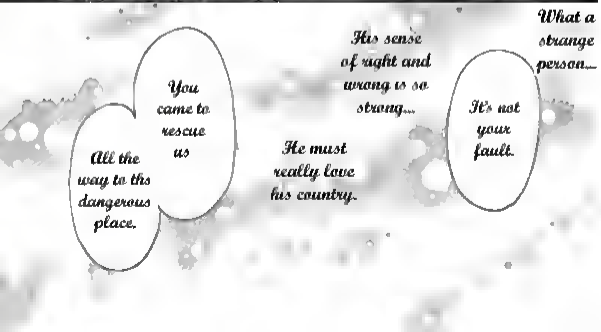
His bronze Skin...
His round gold earring...


Uh-Oh...
Blush...
Did he notice that I was ogling him?
You're awake. How do you feel?

It's like he stepped out from a story-book...
...about the world of pirates!


That's bad...! you have to stay warm.
I'm sorry. My country men who did this won't get away with it.
We will bring them to justice.
They will be punished. I promise.

Rafiq...


What a strange person...
It's not your fault.
His sense of right and wrong is so strong...
He must really love his country.
You came to rescue us
All the way to this dangerous place.

But his eyes are green.
The color of these clear seas
It will be over shortly, Ms Winters.
There was no need to worry about me. the rescue party will be here soon.
Gulp
I'm fine. I'm glad you're all right, too.

Belle...? You're shivering. are you? cold?
Huh...? That's strange. This is a tropical region.
Well, Belle. My name is Rafiq.
Amazing.
Rafiq?
Even his name is sexy.

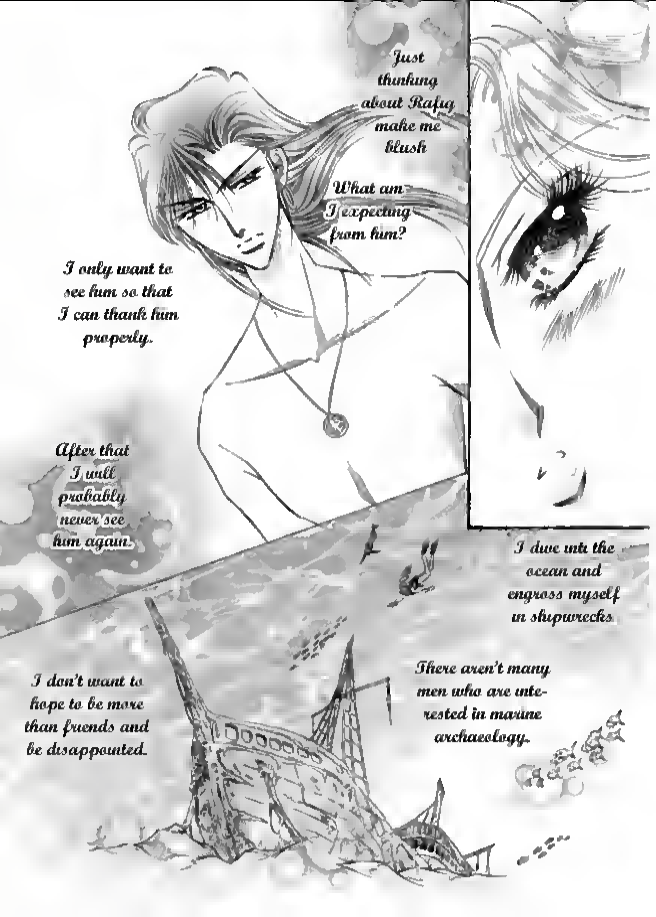
What's your name, Ms pirate?
Call me Belle everyone does

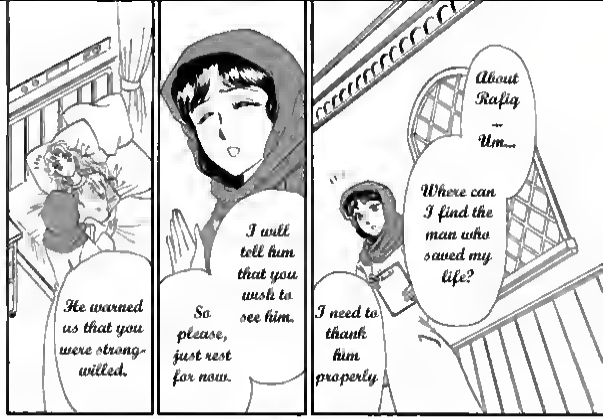
Mr. Duncan MacDonald, who arrived first...
...was badly hurt, but he's stabilized.
Fortunately, the women showed no signs of abuse, so it's most likely psychological.
Ms Winters has been asleep for hours.
After an ordeal like that, no wonder.
Rafiq...
I see a helicopter.
Oh, good. that means that we...
...will be...
Belle...?
Sigh
What's happening to me...?
My body feels so light.
Thup
Thup
Thup
Thup

You can't, Ms Winters.
It's too early for you to leave!
I feel fine. I want to return to my expedition and get back to work.
Thanks to your good fortune...
...you've already saved this country from one disaster already.
Glance
Besides ...

If he was, Salim's infamous cruelty...
Even so...
Would not have let a beauty like Belle slip through his fingers.
It's fortunate that Salim wasn't directly involved in this kidnapping.

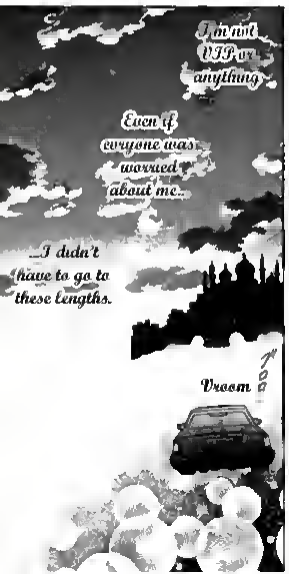
If these foreigners had been killed after their kidnapping...
Qroum international reputation as a peaceful country...
...would have been ruined.
Habibti...
please wake up soon.

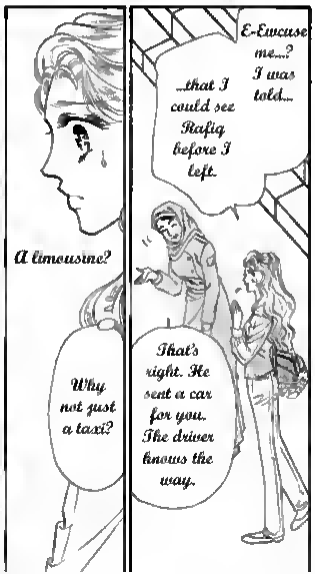

Just thinking about Rafiq make me blush
What am I expecting from him?
I only want to see him so that I can thank him properly.
After that I will probably never see him again.
I dive into the ocean and engross myself in shipwrecks
There aren't many men who are interested in marine archaeology.
I don't want to hope to be more than friends and be disappointed.


He warned us that you were strong-willed.
So please, just rest for now.
I will tell him that you wish to see him.
I need to thank him properly.
About Rafiq — Um...
Where can I find the man who saved my life?

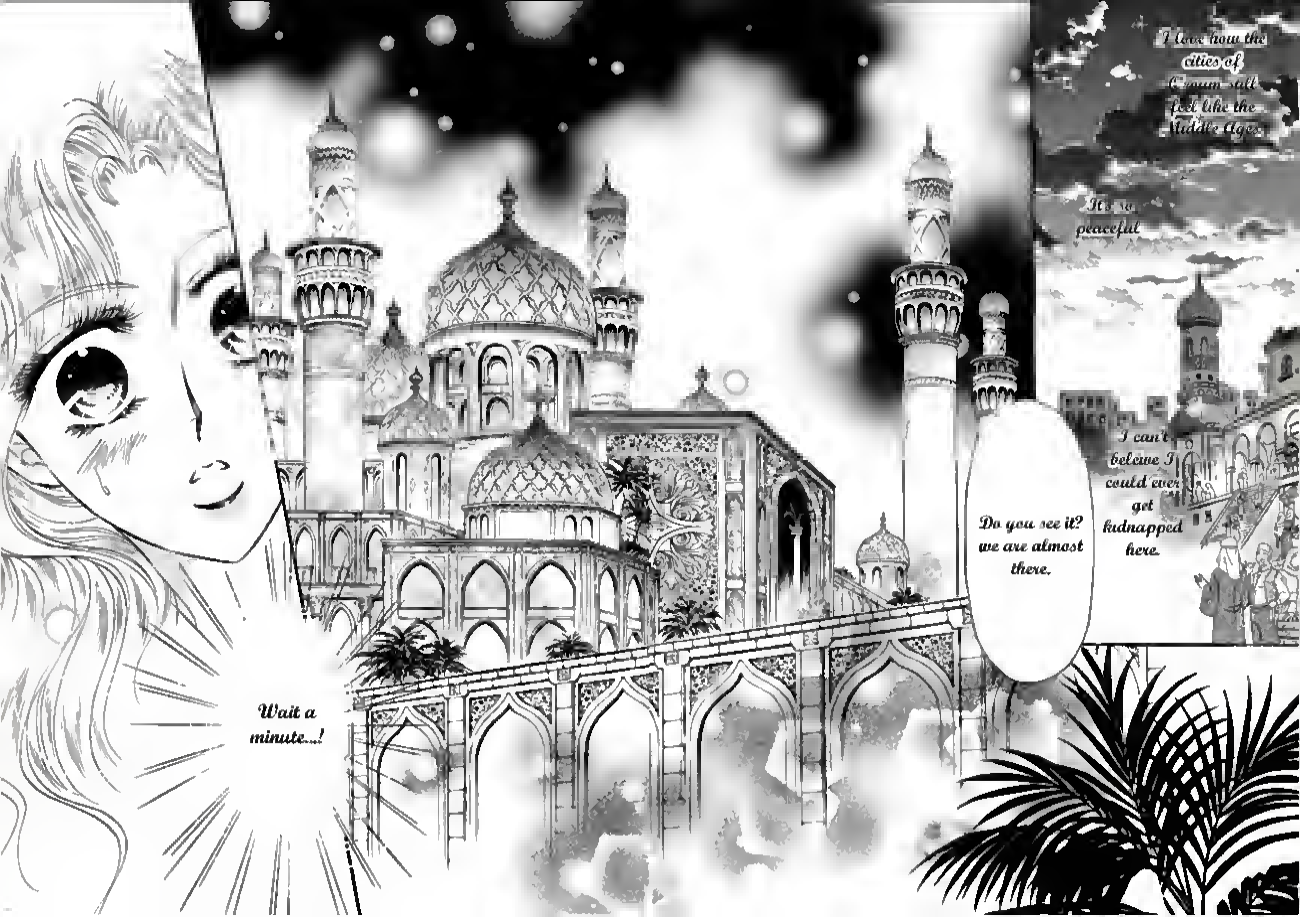
I've been told that I'm out of danger.
This kidnapping was for political purposes. Any foreigner would have done the same.
Strong-willed? What an exaggeration.
Smile

I suppose that make him G'raum's ideal warrior.
A long time ago there were many pirates in this country.
Since Rafiq is out hunting them...
I guess that means he really was military.


I'm not VIP or anything.
Even if everyone was worried about me...
...I didn't have to go to these lengths.
Vroom
Vroom


A limousine?
Why not just a taxi?
E-Excuse me...?
I was told...
...that I could see Rafiq before I left.
That's right. He sent a car for you. The driver knows the way.

We met under such extreme circumstances...
I must be feeling overemotional.
I won't have any need for love or marriage for a long time.
What...?


I love how the cities of Europe still feel like the Middle Ages.
It's so peaceful
I can't believe I could ever get kidnapped here.
Do you see it? we are almost there.
Wait a minute...!

"Your Majesty"...?
Gulp
That's right. He was Rafiq when they rescued us.
I am Daoud, at your service.
Welcome, Ms. Winters. I'm glad that you are well again.
Does that means Rafiq work at the palace too?
She has arrived, Your Majesty.
Knock Knock

I mean, this...
It can't be.
H-Hey! Regular people can't enter this place!
No mistake. This is where I was told to bring you.
...is the royal palace...!
...I remember you.

Greetins, Ms. Winters.
I am Sheikh Kamil Ibn Aqtaam Al Akhtar.
Monarch of C'roum.
Rafiq...
Sheikh Al Akhtar...?

I don't believe it
Rafiq is the ruler of the country?
I'm glad to see you looking healthy again, Belle.
But why...?
Why would the sheikh himself go out rescuing people?
Let alone a foreigner he's never even met?
Your .. Majesty...
Rafiq will do.
Daoud, you may leave us.
Of course. Good night, Ms. Winters.
What? Um...
Yes, good night. Thank you.
Click
Come, Belle.
Make yourself at home.
...
I really stepped into the lion's den...
...without even knowing it!
N-No, that's all right. I only came to say thank-you.
It's because of you that Duncan and I are alive today.
There's no need to thank me. You were victims in my country.
Protecting everyone is the duty of the sheikh.

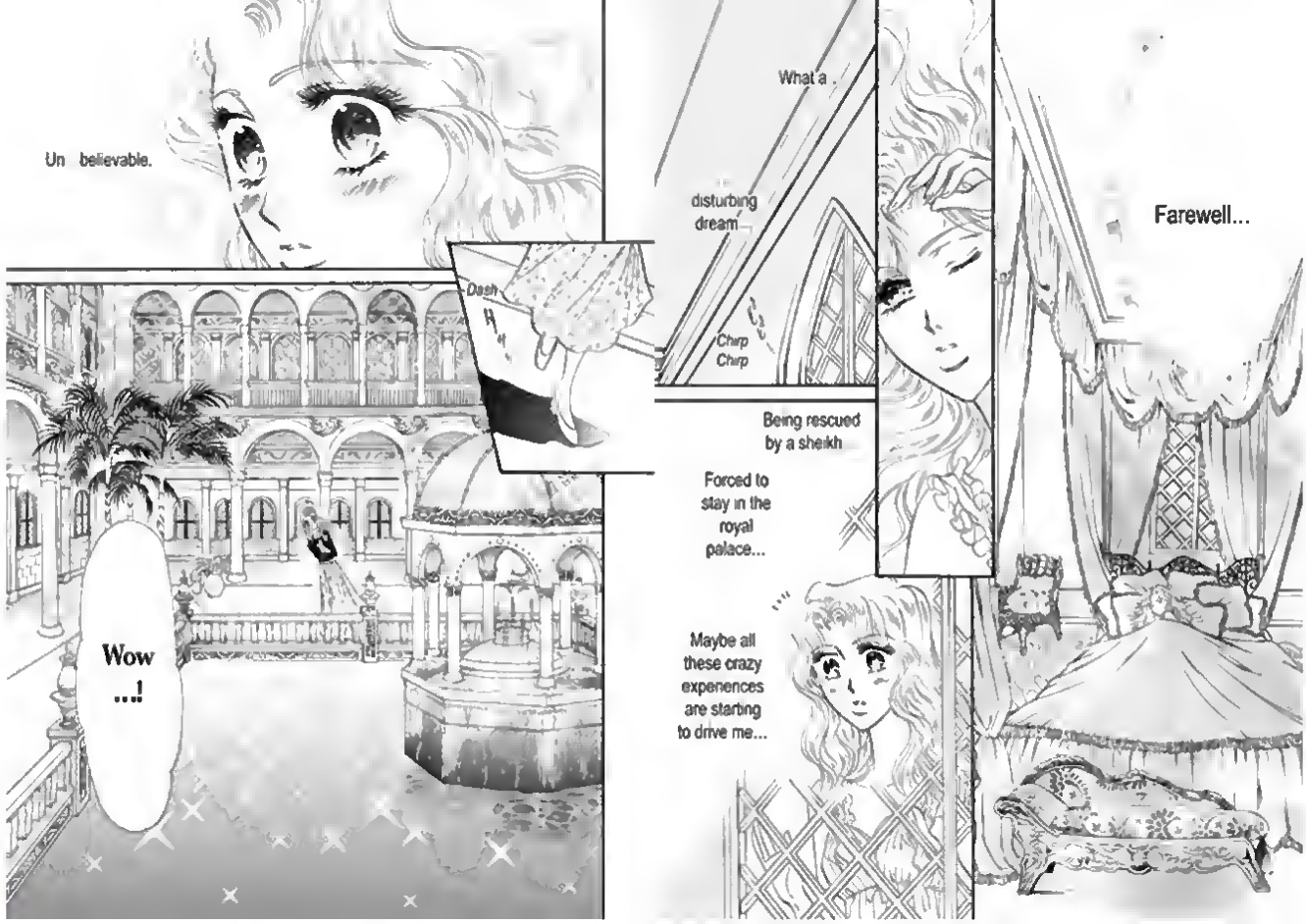
That's why I, and no other, had a responsibility to you.
I acted to fulfill that responsibility. That is all. Please, have a seat.
I wonder ...are the royalty of every country taught like this...?
.....
That is why I don't ever want to subject you to any danger, ever again.
With our politics the way they are, I've decided you will live here in this palace for the time being.
It was because of me that you were here...
...and fell victim to our political turmoil.
After all, I was the one who granted permission for your exploration of these seas.
Live in the palace?
B-But I was told that I was out of danger...!
Huh...?
W-What is he talking about?
How did the conversation turn to this?
I have my own life back home.
And... I appreciate the gesture, but...

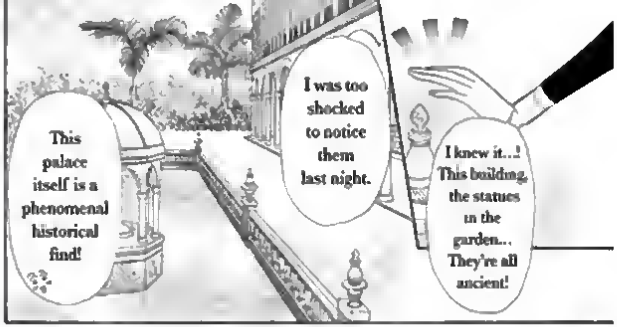
A commoner like me can't stay in the royal palace!
I'm going to go back to my inn.
I explained why protecting you is my duty as the sheikh.
Belle...
Gasp
Don't forget... I was the one who gave your expedition permission to explore this region.
It is not 100% certain they will not come after you again.
How about this, Belle?
To make amends for your hardship, stay here at the palace for the night as my guest.
I don't believe it... Is he trying to blackmail me?
If I refuse to spend the night in the palace...
. he'll revoke our exploration permit...?
Rafiq—?

Well... If it's only for tonight.
Thank you, Your Majesty.
I can't believe this...!
My heart.
It's still pounding
I can't believe I'm this terrified
I never thought Rafiq had a side of him like that.
He's of a royal bloodline, proud and fearless.
Rafiq isn't the type who would really blackmail someone on purpose
That's what my brain keeps telling me.
I only came to thank him...
.. so how did I end up spending the night in the palace?
The Al Akhtar family's ancestors were famous pirates, known for their greed

No
That
isn't it.
It's
all
because
I had to
see him
again.
Lap
Boom!
What
...!
We're
being
attacked
by pirates,
my lady!
What?
What am
I saying ..?
We were
almost to
our destination,
where my
betrothed
awaits!
So
you're
the
young
wench
...
...on her
way to
marry
a man
she's
never
met...!

What...
Rafiq?
You're beautiful. You'll do perfectly!
What are you saying?
You can't kidnap me! It's illegal!
You're a funny one.
That strong will suits the bride of a king!
What!
You're a lucky woman!
I'll take you back to my harem and you'll bear me an heir!
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
Farewell, my unmet fiancé..!
Oh, no . I m going to be part of a harem ..


Farewell...
What a
disturbing
dream
Chirp
Chirp
Being rescued
by a sheikh
Forced to
stay in the
royal
palace...
Maybe all
these crazy
expenences
are starting
to drive me...
Un believable.
Dash
Wow
...!


This palace itself is a phenomenal historical find!
I was too shocked to notice them last night.
I knew it...! This building, the statues in the garden... They're all ancient!

There's a mosaic all over the bottom of the pond
A peacock. This looks very old, too.
The colored stones shine naturally, and the gold is
It's so beautiful!
And it's still in such good condition!

Rafiq...
Gasp
Do you like the peacock ?
G-Good morn-ing.
Yes, it's a beautiful mosaic. I'm impressed.
The peacock is my family's emblem.

Pure gold...?
All of this?
Meaning that the plundering was good.
A good year...?
Shock
...
I stayed overnight... In a harem?
S-So it's true that the people of Q'roum gained their fortunes through piracy...?
Chuckle
True, it seems barbarous today...
...but until a few years ago, charging a plundering tax was a given right.
It was built several hundred years ago. Must have been a good year.
My ancestors were fond of showing off their wealth.
It's all made with gems and pure gold.
Is a royal harem...?
Gasp
The sheikh's brides?
As well as the palace itself.
This mosaic was made as a tribute to the sheikh's brides.
The peacock represents the beauty and grace of a sheikh's bride.
The hawk represents man's ability to hunt, and symbolizes the sheikh.
It's such a beautiful bird.
This palace has one more emblem. The fast and powerful hawk.
D-Does that mean
This beautiful building...

Plundering tax ..?
No wonder your family is said to be ruthless.
Unbelievable.
Rafiq has his ancestors' blood, after all .
My family, ruthless? What an honor. Come, let's have breakfast.
Is he hiding a barbaric side, too?
To continue our discussion from earlier...
I don't even want to imagine.
The best... what?
My ancestors were notorious womanizers.
The Al Akhtars always craved the best.
Naturally, my ancestors weren't only after material goods.
What..!
Apparently, she was on her way to India to marry a soldier she'd never even met.
My great-grandmother was an Englishwoman who was abducted.

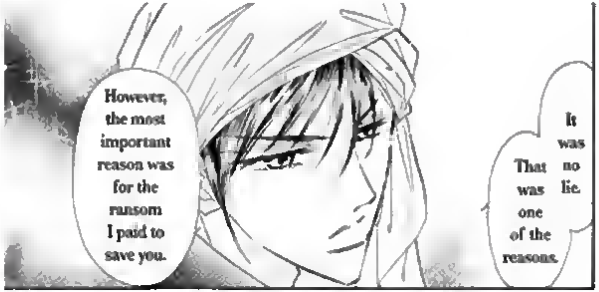
What? You think it's impossible to love a man of Q'roum?
...I ... ... don't believe it.
No... That's not it.
Even after she was freed, she remained in these lands and married my great-grandfather.
It was a rare instance of a marriage of love in the royal family at the time.
It can't be...!
Forced to be just another woman in a harem
I mean, an English noble-woman .
It must have been so demean-ing

And still, she was so in love..
that she couldn't leave.
In love with a man of the Al Akhtar family !
You'll come to understand, Belle.
...Huh?
Why would Rafiq bring up a story like this to tell me . ?
Rafiq...
I have to get back to my inn.

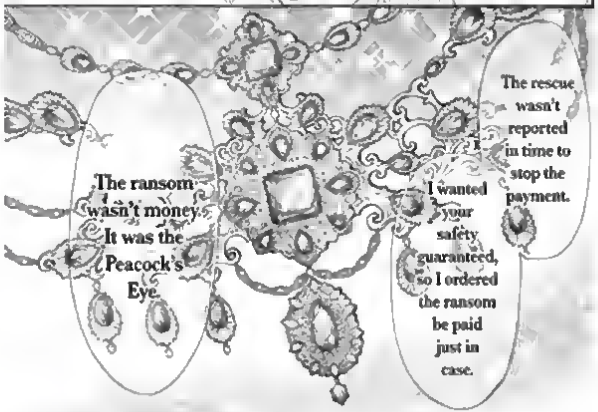
No.
...You
can't.
You have
to stay
here,
in the
palace.
You
can't
leave.
I...
In one
week's
time...
I will
make
you my
bride.
This is
fate.
There is
no other
way.

Wha...

You're joking, right?
But...why? Then were you lying last night, when you said you wanted me to stay to protect me?
I wouldn't joke about something this important.
How can that be?
Gasp
Marry Rafiq?
His bride .?
Gong Gong

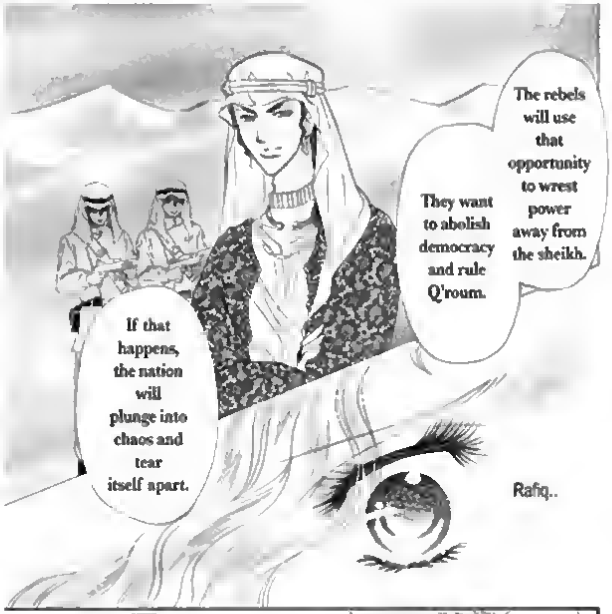

However, the most important reason was for the ransom I paid to save you.
It was no lie. That was one of the reasons.

Does that mean...
Ransom? You paid a ransom for me, even though you rescued me?


The ransom wasn't money. It was the Peacock's Eye.
I wanted your safety guaranteed, so I ordered the ransom be paid just in case.
The rescue wasn't reported in time to stop the payment.

The Peacock's Eye...!
Slump
But that...
...is a national treasure! You gave them that for *me*...?
That's impossible ...!

I gave up the Peacock's Eye...
...and brought you back.
I gave up the bride's gem for a woman.
So the people believe that the ransom was paid for a bride.
Yes. A national treasure that belongs to the people.
However, that necklace has another, special meaning.
For generations... Those gems have shone from the neck of the sheikh's bride as a tradition of Q'roum.


The rebels will use that opportunity to wrest power away from the sheikh.
They want to abolish democracy and rule Q'roum.
If that happens, the nation will plunge into chaos and tear itself apart.
Rafiq..

Does that mean... you know who the kidnappers' ringleader is?
Yes... A man named Salim. Embarrassingly enough, he is a distant relative of mine.

Many of the people still believe that the sheikh is their born leader.
They are still attached to the royal family's traditions.
But...!
Belle... This country has only been a democracy for 30 years.
Otherwise, the people won't accept it.
No, Belle. the Peacock's Eye was paid for you, alone.
B-But I wasn't the only hostage...!

The people will lose faith in the sheikh and it will tarnish the honor of the royal family.
However, if they learn that a national treasure was traded for a stranger...
The council and the sheikh now share their power to preserve order.

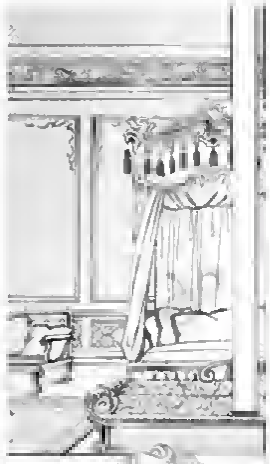
Rafiq... He wants to protect this country by any means
The people of Q'roum are brave and kind.
Just like when he said that rescuing me was his duty
Their sheikh ransomed the Peacock's Eye to save the woman he loves.
If it's explained this way, the people will embrace you.
He's saying that!...
I can't refuse.
He paid our ransom, putting his own life and reputation on the line
If he hadn't saved Duncan and me from the storm, we would have died
Oh... But...!
... have a responsibility to help him, as well.
N-No, but...
We only met a few days ago.
A few days is plenty to choose a bride.
Love...? Is there a man you love, then?
But, Rafiq... We aren't in love.
He's so arrogant...!
Belle... Even the council has asked for this marriage to happen.
We'll buy time to capture Salim with the wedding. That's all we can do.

The reality of it isn't as dramatic as my pirate dream.
It's not like I'm getting married because he fell in love with me at first sight.
The woman who marries the sheikh is so lucky.
He gave up the Peacock's Eye for her!
How romantic!
The preparations have already begun.
This can't be happening...!
There's no turning back now.

Rafiq . .
If only he had said he wanted to marry me because he fell in love with me...
You look beautiful. Let's go.
I wouldn't have to feel this pathetic.
Don't be stupid Only now that we're getting married. . .
..do I realize how I really feel about him.

Belle... I'll never forget what you've done.
Click
Rafiq...
For my country.

Remember, once the ringleader is caught and the political situation calms down...
Rafiq isn't the type to continue a marriage with a wife he never asked for
Blush
This isn't a real marriage.
You fulfilled your duty as sheikh...
...and I agreed to help you.



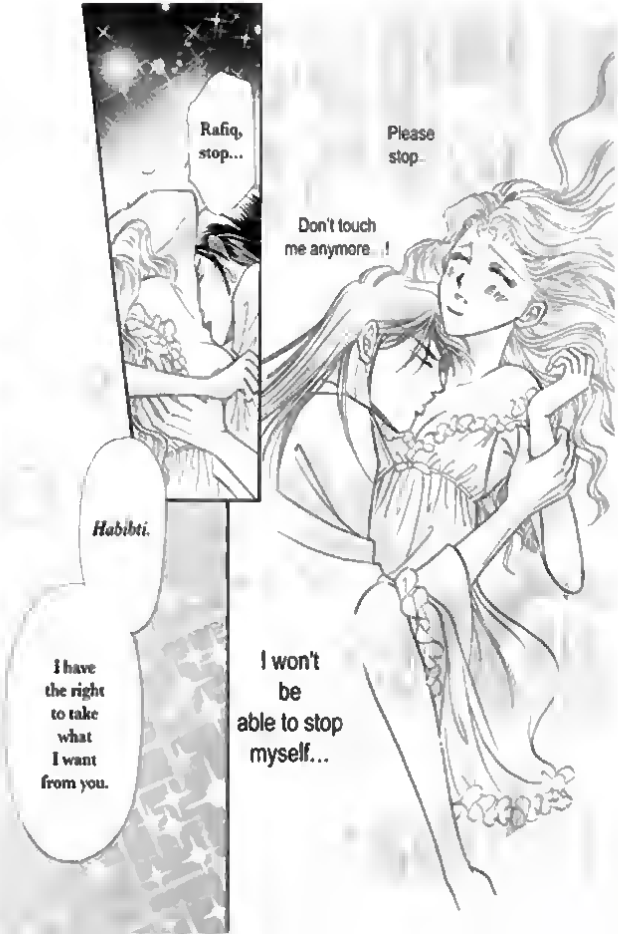
Glance
.....

I've wanted Rafiq to fall in love with me...
ever since that stormy night

I don't intend to keep this relationship only on paper.
Fwoosh
This still makes us legally husband and wife.
Belle.
Gasp
I can't let him any further into my heart.
I can't break down and cry when he leaves me
No matter what
What...!
Fump
Rafiq...!

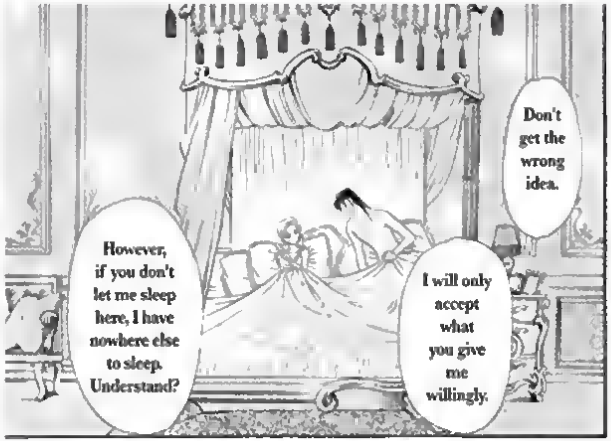
No...!
Don't lie to yourself, Belle.
It doesn't suit you.
Blush
アア……
Rafiq...!
Isn't that a fun thought?
You're mine, Belle...
And I am yours.
Rafiq

I said, stop...!
Gasp


Rafiq, stop...
Please stop...
Don't touch me anymore...!
Habibti.
I have the right to take what I want from you.
I won't be able to stop myself...

Sssssh
Belle...
"I have the right to take what I want from you."
Blast it...!

Stop it...
Please...


However, if you don't let me sleep here, I have nowhere else to sleep. Understand?
Don't get the wrong idea.
I will only accept what you give me willingly.

I don't know how long I can control myself.
If I'm next to Rafiq ..
B-But...

We will sleep in the same bed together every night. This I will not compromise on.

I can't believe my bride would spurn me on our wedding night !!
Belle's ejection
upset me more than I thought

Blush
Do we absolutely have... ...to sleep in the same bed?
Still, she will be mine
I can't let my desire for her show For now, I must be patient.
I should have expected this
wouldn't work on Belle
Assuming that I could have her because we're married...

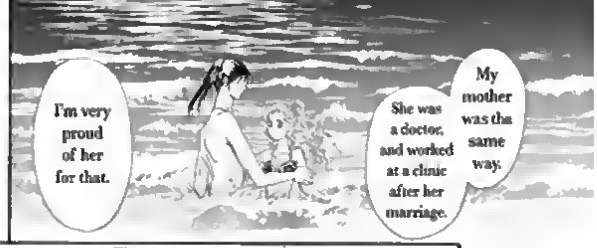
Jump
All right...
Rafiq...
I'm only going to hold you.
Like during that stormy night.
Oh...
Since that night...
Rafiq doesn't realize ..
My heart has belonged to him.

Belle.
Belle...! Get ready. We're leaving.
What? Where are we going?
We're leaving...
...for our honeymoon, of course!
I want to love him, even if he doesn't love me
But if I do, it will only make going our separate ways harder.
How long do I have to keep these feelings inside?

Lap Lap
I can't believe it...!
You own this entire beach?
Do you like it? Unfortunately, we can't leave Q'roum right now.
We can still enjoy some time together here, without anyone prying.
Our honeymoon ...?

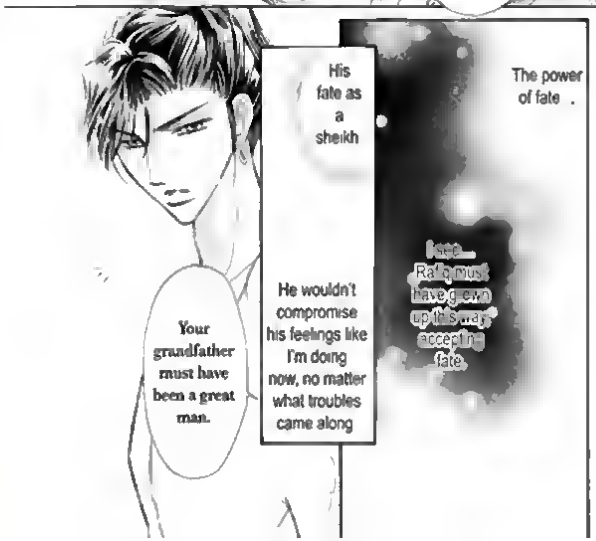
I'll have to give up my career
I've kind of...
Huh?
Um...
What...?
When are the new members of your expedition arriving?
I don't want you to go diving alone.
A royal consort can't go about diving to explore shipwrecks
You're passionate about your archaeology.
If you found a shipwreck, you wouldn't be able to keep yourself from exploring it.
You mean... I can keep working?
Do they hurt?
You still have a few scratches.
No, I'm all right now.
I did it for both of us.
Thank you. You didn't have to do this for me.
Rafiq...
.....
Rafiq?
You still want to explore the sunken shipwreck, don't you?
Doesn't seeing the ocean make you want to get back to work?
Flutter

Rafiq...
So when my mother and father died in that plane crash...
...I accepted it as fate and never blamed anyone for it.


I'm very proud of her for that.
She was a doctor, and worked at a clinic after her marriage.
My mother was the same way.

You lost your parents in an accident, didn't you?
Rafiq...

Yes...
It was when I was 11 years old. My grandfather raised me afterward.
Grandfather always believed in the power of fate.


His fate as a sheikh
The power of fate...
Your grandfather must have been a great man.
He wouldn't compromise his feelings like I'm doing now, no matter what troubles came along
Rafiq must have given up his duty, accepting fate.

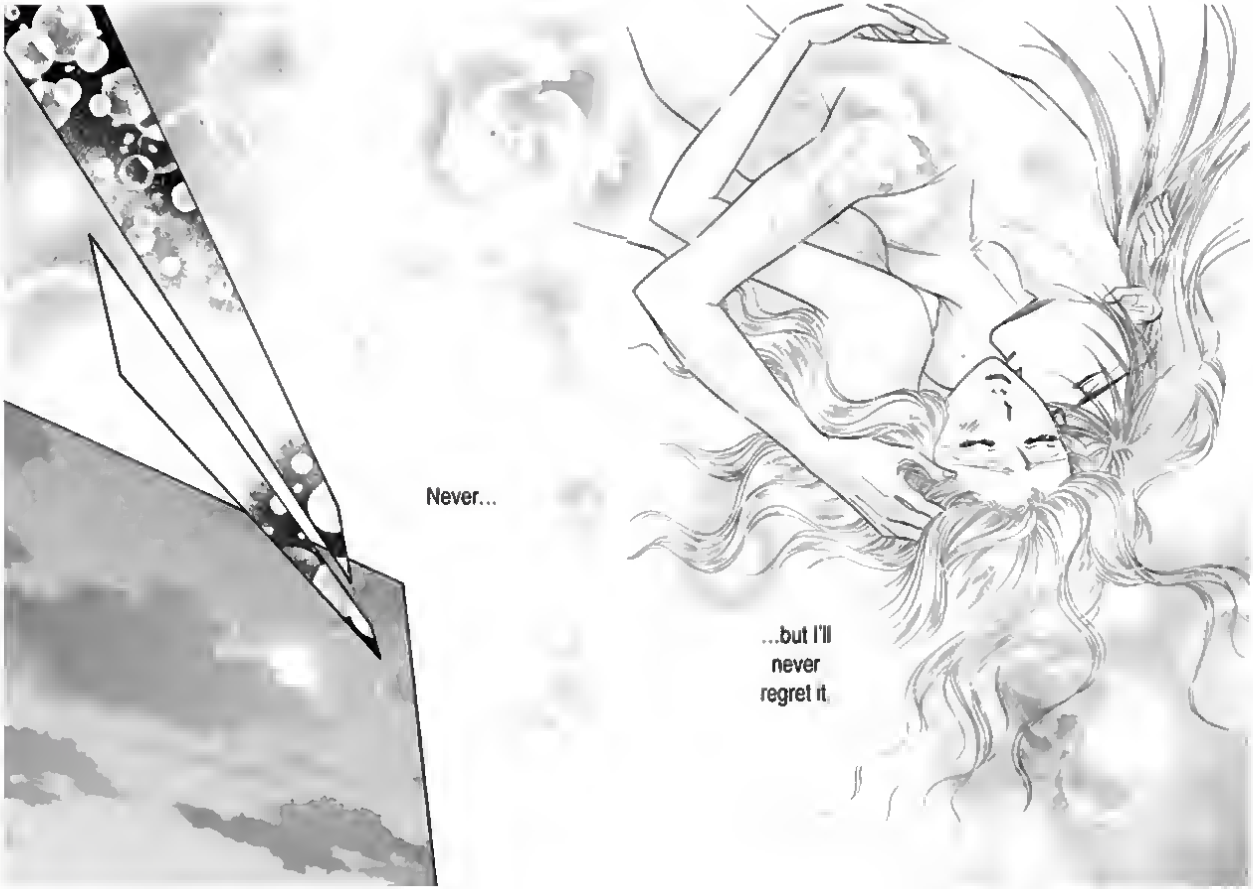
He raised you to become such a well-respected ruler.
I'm sure he would be proud of you.
Belle...
When did I become such a coward?
Even if he doesn't really love me
Even if our marriage is a sham...
Rafiq...
It's so beautiful...
Q'roum's mysteries aren't only in the palace and the ocean.
They're hidden in the desert, as well.
...is being so sincere with me.

My wife is a true romantic.
We'll camp at this oasis tonight.
Wow...!
Rafiq?
I want to be as sincere with Rafiq as I can...
...so that we can part on good terms.
Normally, after marriage...
...what public duties does a bride perform?
Where are the guards?
They're staying nearby to respect the sheikh's privacy.

Traditionally, she makes an appearance wearing the Peacock's Eye.
Belle...
Well... She would first receive the blessings of the people.
I'm very happy, Belle.
You're not only beautiful, but showed great courage at the wedding ceremonies. You will make a wonderful queen.
That's right.
The Peacock's Eye was supposed to be worn by me
Presenting myself, wearing the gem, is my duty to the people.
You can just rest until then.
The Peacock's Eye
The Peacock's Eye can't be recovered until Sahm is caught.
This time, it will be different.

Beautiful...?
You still...
...don't want me to kiss you?
Me...?
...whether his great-grandmother who stayed in this country was happy
I don't know...
No...
Rafiq...
But I'm sure, now That she didn't regret it.
...I do.
Belle...

I never thought you'd ask me for anything.
I am honored, habibti.
Rafiq...
I want you to...
You want me to... what?
Is a kiss all that you want?
Oh...
I want you...
If the time comes for us to part...
I'll accept it.
If that is our fate...
I'll accept it all...
...to love me.


Never...
...but I'll never regret it.

Rafiq ...?
Daoud! Security is compromised.
What's going on...?
It's all right. Daoud will be here soon.
We'll have to stall until he arrives.
Rafiq ...?
Is there someone out there?
The horses...
Gone?
Belle, hush.
Put this on, quietly.

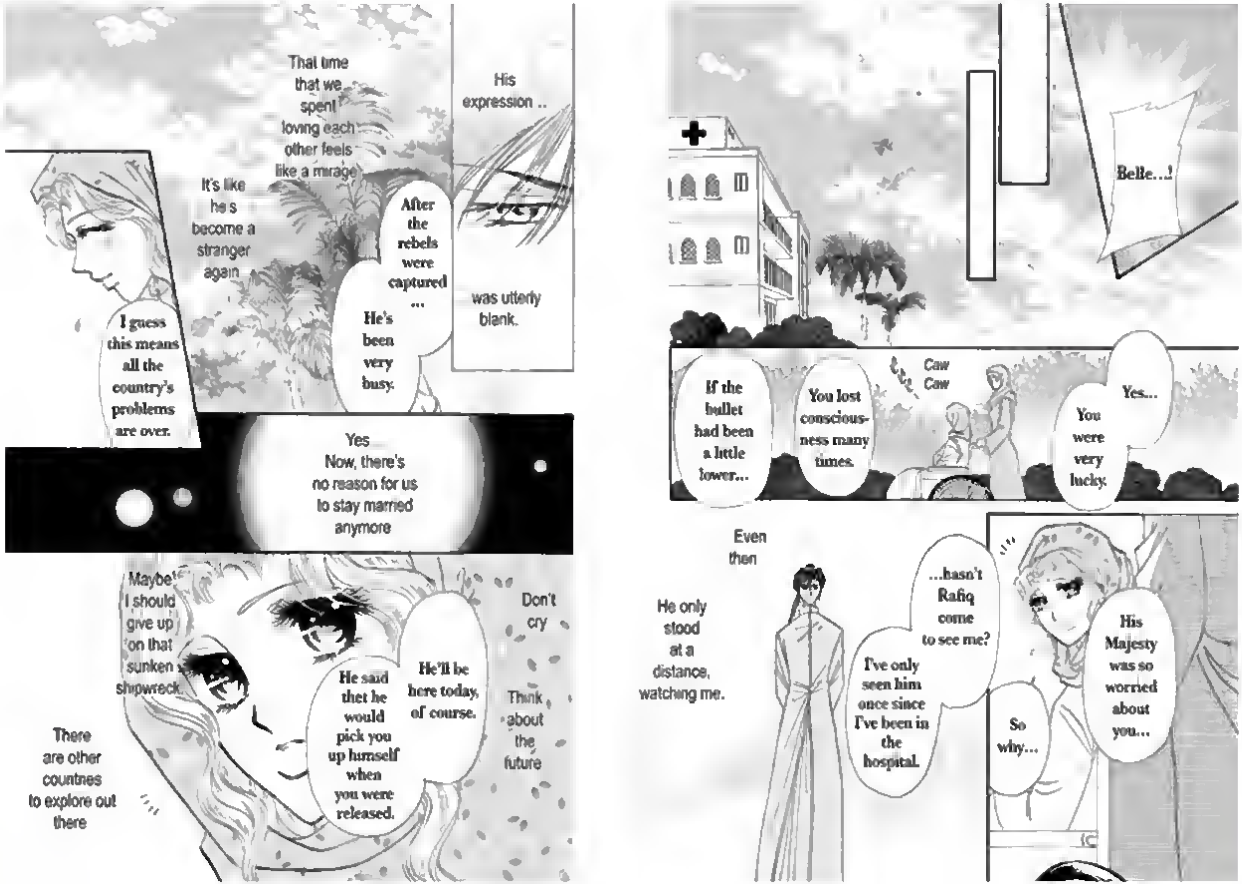
Whinny
Gasp

The men who kidnapped me...!
Chuckle
A sheikh, underesti-mating the dangers of the desert...
What a fool you are, Rafiq!
Salim ...!
Flap

Sneer
You're certainly an Al Akhtar.
Another foreign blonde.
Rafiq!
You can't...!
Shiver
Take the woman.
Seize her!
Not again...!
Whack!
I've brought Belle into their clutches again!
This is my fault ..!
What do you want, Salim...?
Just don't lay a finger on my wife.
Fine.
I'll go with you.
Rafiq
You know what I want. A transfer of power
If the sheikh himself makes the announcement...
It will work in my favor.

Salim ...!
Stop right there ...!
Blam
Rafiq!
No...!

Belle ...!
My lady...!
Oh, Rafiq.
I'm so glad
So ..
I knew we would make it.
There s a storm outside but it s all right
We'll be all right.
If Rafiq is with me I'm not afraid
I can hear Rafiq's voice...
He's saving me again...
Belle ...!
Rafiq...
Belle...!


Belle...!
If the bullet had been a little lower...
You lost consciousness many times.
Caw
Caw
You were very lucky.
Yes...
Even then
He only stood at a distance, watching me.
I've only seen him once since I've been in the hospital.
...hasn't Rafiq come to see me?
So why...
His Majesty was so worried about you...
That time that we spent loving each other feels like a mirage
His expression ..
It's like he's become a stranger again
After the rebels were captured ...
He's been very busy.
was utterly blank.
I guess this means all the country's problems are over.
Yes
Now, there's no reason for us to stay married anymore
Maybe I should give up on that sunken shipwreck
He said that he would pick you up himself when you were released.
He'll be here today, of course.
Don't cry
Think about the future
There are other countries to explore out there

Hello, Rafiq.
You came to get me?
Who but your husband... would come to take you home?
.....
Home . ?
It's funny This place really does feel like home now
Rafiq...

Welcome home, my lady.
Your subjects have also been awaiting your return. Please, take this.
Thank you, Daoud.
It's a lovely box. What's inside?
Daoud! My wife is tired.
That can wait.
It's all right, Rafiq. What is it, Daoud?
A Q'roum tradition.

The Peacock's Eye...
It's so beautiful.
You got it back...
I can't believe that Rafiq would trade this for me, a complete stranger
Even if it was to protect his country's reputation...
. Rafiq did everything he could to save my life.
The people have gathered around the balcony in the observatory.
They've been there for hours.
Yes. They're waiting to catch a glimpse of you, wearing the gem.
Belle... You're the people's heroine right now.
What...? Then you mean...
Rafiq...?
Is he angry with me? Why ..?
Heroine ...?
Of course. The people know how you, to save your husband's life...
...threw yourself in front of an assassin's bullet.

Then finally, we can be free.
Let's put this show to an end.
I'll wear the Peacock's Eye in front of the people.
I see now
Rafiq wants to rush me out of the picture
He thinks I only did it to win over the [illegible]
I understand, Rafiq. Put me down.
I'll carry out my final duty.
It convinced the die-hard conventionalists that marrying you was the right choice.
It's the truth.
That's... such an exaggeration.
Belle
All right. Daoud, prepare the audience.
Understood, sir.
Come, Belle. I'll put the necklace on for you.
...
Even now .. I can't forget .
Are you sure that you're feeling up to this?
The people will understand if we wait until you've fully recovered.
No... I'm fine.
I can't let him lose face...
... in my final public appearance,
It will be the best performance I ever give.
... all the kindness that Rafiq has shown me

...as Rafiq's lucky and beloved bride.
My role...
Wha...!
How can I be crying ...?
I can't believe it ..!
Belle...!
I'm sorry! I'm so sorry, Rafiq...!
I didn't mean to spoil the moment!
Belle ...!
No...! I have to do it now.
I won't get any better than this.
We'll postpone it until you're better.
The appearance will be too much.

I'm not as strong as you.
Just thinking about leaving here...
...makes me feel like my heart is breaking...!
Sniff
Sniff
Why... would you leave?
Did that experience make you want to run away?
No...
I mean... You don't have any reason to stay with me now.
But I...
I...
I love you.
I don't want to leave you.
You love me?
Are you sure?
Belle...
Yes... Very much.
Rafiq ..
I've never seen you break down in tears before.
Thank you.

Rafiq ...?
Habibti...
You are mistaken.
The Peacock's Eye is not a treasure for display to the people.
Every generation, a man of the Al Akhtar family...
...presents it to the only woman he treasures.
Even during the era of harems, it was given to the favorite consort.
Times have changed.
Ever since my great-grandfather gave it to his English bride...
...for several generations, the men in my family take only one bride, in a display of true love.

I intend to do the same.
That is why the Peacock's Eye belongs to you.
Rafiq...
Belle... I love you.
I've desired your heart for so long.

That was only an excuse.
So that you wouldn't leave me.
Do I seem like such a weak ruler that I would have to marry to save my country?
My bride is a pure soul.
She never doubted my word.
It can't be...
You were only fulfilling your duty as sheikh.
What. !
That was when I decided to make you mine.
I fell in love...
...with the woman I met on that stormy night.

Rafiq...
When you took a bullet for me...
I cursed my own foolishness.
Wanting so much to make you my true bride...
...I took you into the desert, knowing the danger.
The fear of losing you made me realize how powerless I really was.
Then why didn't you come see me at the hospital?
I couldn't face you. Not after putting you in danger twice.
I was terrified that, this time, you would leave me for certain.

Belle... I pledge you my everlasting love.
Never leave my side.
Yes...
Will you love me forever, as well?
Of course, Rafiq...

The Peacock's Eye...
...shone from the neck of the bride who struck the sheikh's heart with love
That day, the people of Q'roum...
...saw with their own eyes that the legend lived on.
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Rahble Rahble
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